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The Missionary Herald

Newsletter of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

Missionaries, Staff, P.C. to Take Serious Look at Policy

Two conferences this summer promise a thorough working over of basic American Board policy. At the Furloughed Missionaries Conference, August 23-26, the Boston staff will lay current thinking and planning on the line—and missionaries will be invited to talk back.

A week later, August 31-September 3, the Policy Committee of P.C. is to meet for an intensive three days on these same matters. Thinking in the Missionary Conference will provide important grist for the Policy Committee mill.

Some of the issues most likely to wrinkle brows and elicit argument center around the financial position of the Board. In our last issue we reported that the following shifts in budgeting have taken place in the last 10 years:

Ecumenical Projects up $37,000 or 123%
Home Administration up $69,000 or 40%
Promotion and Service to Churches up $150,000 or 94%
Field Budgets up $9,000 or ½%

What do such facts say about Board staffing and operation? What is happening to programs on the field in a time of rapidly rising costs? Are we operating at sub-standard levels, or are there factors in the growth of indigenous leadership and giving which compensate for a decline in American subsidy?

Then there are questions about the fiscal prospects of the Board. Is there reason to hope that with improved and intensified educational and promotional programs our income can be significantly raised? Or have we reached a plateau of financial capacity on which we must be prepared to live for a decade or generation? If so, is it necessary to reconsider our present commitments? Perhaps we are trying to do too much with too little, spreading ourselves too thin? Or perhaps we are doing too little and so inhibiting the interest of supporters as well as missing opportunities for significant service. Will the dollars stretch to some exciting new frontiers? Had we better trade some old lamps for new?

Other questions concern the *kind* of program carried on. Is our heavy emphasis on institutional work, for example, most economical and effective in a time of stringency? Do institutions provide indispensable reasons for our being in places which otherwise would not admit us? Do they also saddle us with fixed responsibilities which are peculiarly vulnerable to inflationary pressures? What do our institutions actually accomplish?

Thus we shift to other problems than those connected with money. One of the most insistent concerns is the recruiting of missionary personnel. Why have we had to more than double our recruiting staff and operations in recent years? Why are we forced to operate with so high a proportion of short-term workers, whose effectiveness without language and mostly without significant experience, can hardly be optimum? (Or can it? Some argue that it is the career missionary, not the short-termer, who is anomalous.)

And then what about the *quality* of candidates for service? Why do so many who apply represent so much personal charm, intelligence, and theological ignorance or obfuscation? Do Congregational Christian churches still produce people who have a clear understanding of the Bible and of the historic Chritisan faith; *and* who believe the things they understand; *and* who are committed to sharing their beliefs with those who do not hold them? What kind of mission can we best carry on with the kind of people we are?

These are some, but by no means all, of the questions which representatives of the Board family will tackle with de-

termination this summer. Readers are urged to ponder them, and to participate in the search for answers. Letters about such issues as these will be gladly received and carefully studied.

—David M. Stowe

NEWS FROM THE FIELDS

India and Ceylon

Plans are well under way for the establishment of a center for the study of Hinduism in Ceylon. Land for this purpose has been purchased adjacent to the home of the Jaffna Ashram at Maruthanamadam. Two prominent Ceylon Christian leaders recently retired from education work in Jaffna have been enlisted to direct this work.

The Near East

In a lecture on Islam at the University of Istanbul, Prof. Asaf Feyzi, Rector of the University of Kashmir, stated that Islam can and must reform itself so that it can speak to the modern mind. Among other things which he mentioned as being necessary were the following: historical studies of Islam; critical studies of Islam, Judaism, and Christianity with the view of fine points of similarity among them; new studies of the Seriat (religious law) which will give the law relevance for modern social problems; study of Eastern languages; separation of the principle of Islam from its expression in the Seriat. The lecture was given in English.

It is reported that a branch of Moral Rearmament has been opened in Ankara with Muslim-Turkish officers.

On April 4 a cable was sent from Baghdad reporting that the Schoups (E & R missionaries), the Weisses and the Davenports were being expelled from Iraq, and that the three American members of the staff of the school for girls there, were remaining, This meant that these three young women were the only members of the United Mission in Iraq who were still able to stay and they are being urged to come also. The Joint Committee is planning to maintain all present personnel, putting them into language study or work elsewhere in the Arab world, and even to recruit others who will be ready if and when Iraq again opens to mission work.

In Gaziantep, Turkey, the English lessons started for friends of one of the old *Jesusist* group have turned into lessons on the Gospel and the life of Christ, with the group doubling in size for these new lessons.

Japan

The Social Problems Committee of the United Church of Christ in Japan has taken an unequivocal stand against the move on the part of ultranationalist reactionaries to have the Ise Shrine removed from the list of registered religious groups. Pre-war focus of nationalistic ceremony and Imperial family worship, Ise Shrine, if no longer registered as a "religion", could enjoy the support and protection of the government and would furnish a rallying point for reactionary forces operating in many avenues of Japanese life.

The Rev. Katsumi Yamahata, formerly pastor of the Bibai Church in Hokkaido, has accepted a call to Santa Crus, Bolivia, where he will work with the 500 Japanese and Okinawans who have immigrated there. Pastor Yamahata's pastorate in Santa Crus is under the sponsorship of the Overseas Evangelistic Committee of the United Church of Christ.

An article by Kikaku Shimamura, appearing in the January 10 issue of *Christ Weekly* (and reported in the Interboard News Bulletin) summarizes the Protestant evangelistic movement in Japan over the past hundred years. Beginning with 22 church members in 1871, Christianity grew so rapidly that by the year 1889 the number of Japanese Protestant Christians totaled 30,000 and increased steadily under the leadership of such men as John R. Mott reaching a total of 54,785 by the end of 1901. A cooperative evangelistic campaign strengthened and grew through the years 1914 and 1915 and church membership reached new heights at 123,000 in 1915. World War I brought a slight decline in church growth, but under the leadership of John R. Mott and Toyohiko Kagawa, years of steady growth followed to bring the total members to 196,695. After the formation of the United Church of Christ in Japan in June 1941, and the end of World War II, church membership rose to 200,118. Attendance and active interest in the

church increased dramatically during the post-war boom, and membership climbed to 316,105 in 1955. A study made by the National Christian Council ten years ago places much of the success for the Protestant evangelistic movement in Japan upon the training of leaders, the organization of lay evangelists, the movement toward cooperation in evangelism, the increase in construction of church buildings, and the church school as an arm of evangelism. Given a strong foundation such as this, we may well approach another peak in the history of the church in Japan as the years progress.

Philippines

In January, the Department of Christian Education of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines held a pioneering conference including the leaders of Student Centers and Student Evangelism and twenty-five pastors of churches on Luzon which are serving areas with unusual concentrations of student population. Through a clearer understanding of student needs and problems and of the Church's ministry on the campus, the United Church hopes to combine campus leadership and local church initiative in an effective outreach to one of the largest (in terms of percentage) student populations in the world.

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

	1956	1958
North American missionaries overseas	23,440	25,058
Missionaries of DFM (Nat. Council) agencies	10,475	10,977
Missionaries of other Protestant agencies	12,975	14,081
Total Protestant missionary force		38,608

PROTESTANT MISSIONARY AGENCIES IN FOREIGN FIELDS

Japan	97	Philippines	49	Iran	5
India	95	Hong Kong	46	Turkey	1
Taiwan	52	Belgian Congo	34	Arabia	4
Brazil	51	Colombia	29	Algeria	2
		Nigeria	28	Fiji	2

APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

	1956	1958
To DFM (Nat. Council) boards	$57.6 million	$66.6 million
To other boards	$41.4 million	$48.5 million
For administration and promotion	$33.5 million	$32. million
Income of all North American boards and agencies	$132.6 million	$147.2 million

AMERICAN BOARD CHRONICLE

February 10 — May 15, 1959

Born: to Mr. and Mrs. James R. Morehead of the Near East Mission, a son, Mark Robert, on February 11, 1959, in Gaziantep, Turkey.

To Rev. and Mrs. William P. Tolley of the Angola Mission, a son, Kirk Andrew, on February 16, 1959, in Lisbon, Portugal.

To Mr. and Mrs. Coenraad B. Bavinck of the Ceylon Mission, a daughter, on March 16, 1959, in Ceylon.

To Mr. and Mrs. Keith Schwyhart of the Rhodesia Mission, a daughter, Phyllis Jean, on March 23, 1959, in Southern Rhodesia.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Lowe of the Rhodesia Mission, a son, David Lowe, on March 31, 1959, in Southern Rhodesia.

Voted by the Prudential Committee: that Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Phelps of the Ceylon Mission be made retired missionaries of the American Board, and that the Board express to them its deep appreciation of their years of devoted services in Ceylon and India.

That the Rev. and Mrs. Emmons E. White of the Madura Mission be made missionaries emeriti of the American Board, and that the Board express to them deep appreciation of their 42 years of devoted service.

That Miss Constance Buell, formerly of the North China Mission and more recently of the Japan Mission, be made a missionary emeritus of the American Board, and that appreciation be expressed for her 40 years of devoted service.

Staff Travels: Many of the readers of this journal will have seen Boston staff members in strange and lovely places by the time this issue reaches them. Dr. Carleton will have been around the world, visiting many stations in the Near East, India, and the Pacific Area, as well as attending the East Asia Christian Conference meeting in Malaya, May 14-24.

Miss Blemker returned just as we went to press on May 19, after visiting all the Near East stations and attending a mission-to-Muslims conference in Eritrea—but not managing to visit Iraq. Dr. Reuling took off for Britain and Africa on May 9, planning to visit all his fields before returning on July 16.

In Memoriam

Mrs. Katherine Sullivan Maxwell (Charles H.) (1878-1959), a missionary of the American Board in South Africa for 40 years, 1906-1946, died on March 10, 1959, at the age of 80.

Miss Edith Ferris Parsons (1878-1959), missionary of the American Board in Turkey for 34 years, 1912-1946, died at the age of 80 on April 2, 1959.

Miss Anne L. Buckley (1871-1959), a former Secretary of the Woman's Board of Missions and editor and writer for Congregational Christian Church publications, died on April 17, 1959, at the age of 88.

Seabury Memorial Hymnals: Fifty of the newly published Pilgrim Hymnals were dedicated on March 30 for use in the Prayer Room. A bookplate designed and printed by Dr. Bliss for this purpose reads:

THIS HYMAL
is presented in loving memory
of
RUTH ISABEL SEABURY
by
Members of the Prudential Committee
Staff of the American Board
and other Friends

*

Easter — 1959

CALENDAR OF PRAYER

I'm a newcomer to 14 Beacon, and still not so intimately related as most of you to those witnesses to Christ in other lands for whom we gather in prayer.

In principle we are all interrelated as "members one of another" in the body of Christ, but principle is not existential experience. How do we know such experience in our very being? How, for example, can I lead in prayer for the one who is the object of our prayer today unless somehow I know her as a personal subject—that is, in person?

This is no academic question; it's with us all the time. How do we know and express love in general to persons whom we have not seen unless we know love in particular in persons whom we have seen? And how to move from these particular "in-group" relationships to the more universal?

I don't know the answer; but think there may be a clue—in the depth and fullness of the particular relationships we do know.

This, I believe, is why God Himself sent His Son—to enable us to enter into such fullness of experience with one Person, that we become ourselves more open and adequate to love others. This is how God in Christ reconciles the world to Himself. "We love (in general) because He first loved us (in particular)." This particularity of Christian relationships we constantly need, if the walls of estrangement are to be broken down, and we are to be joined and knit togther as one household of God in the Spirit across continents and seas.

—Howard Boardman, Division of Christian Education, at Noon Prayers, April 27, 1959.

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CHURCH COMMITTEE FOR CHINA RELIEF
105 East 22nd Street New York, New York

THE NEW YORK TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1942.

CHINA ASKS $60,000 FOR FLOOD RELIEF

Appeal Lists Yellow River Toll in August at 3,000 Dead, 40,000 Homeless

WATER ROSE 6 TO 20 FEET

Coal-Slide Marked Inundation —Mud Also Said to Have Improved Land for Farming

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHUNGKING, China, Sept. 28—An urgent appeal for $60,000 has been made to the American Advisory Committee at Chungking for the immediate relief of over 40,000 inhabitants of Eastern Shensi Province who were rendered homeless and destitute by the Yellow River flood in August, it was disclosed today.

For rehabilitation of the flood affected areas, agricultural implements and draft animals must be provided and relief given to other inhabitants through industrial cooperatives. An additional amount is required for medicine and health work as well as for children's Winter clothing, the appeal said.

According to reports submitted to George A. Hogg, Chinese Industrial Cooperatives inspector, and the Rev. E. Bendtz, Swedish missionary, who inspected the affected areas, a huge wave of flood water traveled down the length of the Yellow River following July cloudbursts in Chinghai and Kansu Provinces and on Aug. 3 reached the low-lying territory adjoining the river on the western bank for a hundred miles above the bend at Tungkwan on the Shensi-Honan border which constitutes one of China's fixed battlefronts, with the Japanese entrenched just across the river.

The water rushed over the territory to a depth of six to twenty feet for fifteen hours, leaving a two to three foot layer of mud when it subsided a few hours later.

The force of the water was indicated by literally hundreds of thousands of tons of coal, some in huge lumps, that was carried down from the mountains above the narrows at Yumenko, some seventy miles upstream, and strewn over the countryside. Destruction is as complete as though several hundred bombers had visited each tiny village, Mr. Hogg's report said.

Two factors combined to keep down the death toll. One was the number of trees planted under the government plan, to which men, women and children, and even pigs, clung. The second was the buoyancy of the water which was thick with mud.

Mr. Hogg reported that not a single ear of grain, peanuts, beans or any other crop was saved. On the other hand, he said, the layer of mud left by the flood had improved the agricultural quality of the land.

While the local government distributed food to the survivors during the first week after the flood, at present most of the refugees are earning a living digging coal from the mud for sale inland. The local government has reopened food distribution centers for the absolutely destitute. The majority of the population will soon be faced with the choice of starvation or leaving their homes to become beggars elsewhere. The total loss of life is approximately 3,000, with 40,000 more rendered homeless. Property loss is estimated at $57,500,000.

THE MAIN POINT

The above dispatch immediately concerns the Church Committee for China Relief and all who are committed to Christian aid to China.

The American Advisory Committee to whom the appeal for $60,000 has been made is the Church Committee's administrative agency in China.

Funds for meeting the initial needs in this new great tribulation for thousands of Chinese people have been forwarded.

Rev. Ernest Wampler, missionary of the Church of the Brethren and field inspector of the American Advisory Committee with headquarters in Sian, Shensi, is presumably giving direct supervision of relief in the flooded area.

Leaders of church relief committees and Christian friends of China are urged to respond quickly to this special need so that the vast aid inevitably required in the months ahead may be assured.